CLAIMS

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1. A compound of formula (I)

$$R^{1}O_{2}S$$
 R^{3}
 $A-R^{6}$
(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in which:

Y is selected from the group consisting of CH or nitrogen;

R¹ is selected from the group consisting of C₁₋₆alkyl, NH₂ and R²CONH;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy,

 C_{1-6} alkyl OC_{1-6} alkyl, phenyl, HO_2CC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl $OCOC_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylOCO, H_2NC_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl $OCONHC_{1-6}$ alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkyl $OCONHC_{1-6}$ alkyl;

R³ is selected from the group consisting of H and halogen;

R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of H, C₁₋₅alkyl, and C₁₋₂alkyl substituted by one to five fluorine atoms;

 R^5 is selected from the group consisting of H, CHO, and C_{1-6} alkyl which is unsubstituted or is substituted one or more times by halogen or hydroxy; A is $(CH_2)_0$ or $-SO_2$ -;

 R^6 is selected from the group consisting of $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl, $C_{4\text{-}8}$ cycloalkyl, phenyl and 6-membered heteroaryl, wherein the phenyl and 6-membered heteroaryl ring may be unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by halogen or $C_{1\text{-}6}$ alkyl; and

2. A compound of formula (IA)

n is 0 to 3.

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$$R^{1}O_{2}S$$

$$R^{2}O_{2}S$$

$$R^{3}O_{2}S$$

$$R^{4}O_{2}S$$

$$R^{5}O_{2}S$$

$$R^{6}O_{2}S$$

$$R^{7}O_{2}S$$

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

3. A compound of formula (IB)

$$R^{1}O_{2}S$$
 R^{4}
 R^{5}
 $A-R^{6}$
(IB)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in which all substituents are as for a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

- 4. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl.
- 10 5. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein R^4 is H, CHF₂, CH₂F, CF₃ or C₁₋₄alkyl.
 - 6. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, CHO, or -(CH₂)_nCH₂OH.
- 7. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 wherein R⁶ is C₃₋₅alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₃alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.
 - 8. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 7 wherein n is 0 or 1.
 - 9. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₃alkyl, R⁴ is H, CHF₂, CH₂F, CF₃ or C₁₋₄alkyl, R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -CH₂OH, n is 1, and R⁶

is C_{3-5} alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by C_{1-3} alkyl, or phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.

- 10. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is C₁₋₃alkyl, R⁴ is H, CHF₂, CH₂F, CF₃ or C₁₋₄alkyl, R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -CH₂OH, n is 0, and R⁶ is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen.
- 11. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R¹ is CH₃, R³ is H, R⁴ is H, R⁵ is H, C₁₋₄alkyl, -CHO, or -CH₂OH, A is (CH₂)_n and n is 1, and R⁶ is C₃₋₅alkyl, cyclohexyl, pyridyl optionally substituted by CH₃, or phenyl optionally substituted by chloro.
- 10 12. A compound according to claim 3 wherein R^1 is CH_3 , R^3 is H, R^4 is H, R⁵ is H, A is $(CH_2)_n$ and n is 0, and R^6 is phenyl optionally substituted by fluoro.
 - 13. A compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 and selected from any of the Examples 1 to 18.
- 14. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IA), as defined in claim 2, where each of R⁴ and R⁵ is hydrogen, which comprises:

reducing a compound of formula (III)

$$R^{1}O_{2}S$$
 (III)

to form a compound of formula (VIII);

reacting said compound of formula (VIII) with a compound R⁶-A-X, or a protected derivative thereof, where X is a halogen, such as CI, Br or I, or a sulfonate such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or

trifluoromethanesulfonate, and A and R⁶ are as hereinbefore defined; such as to produce a compound of formula (IA), wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are both hydrogen

$$R^{1}O_{2}S$$
 (IA)

5 and thereafter and if necessary,

interconverting said compound of formula (IA) into another compound of formula (IA); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IA).

15. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (IB), as defined in claim 3, where each of R⁴ and R⁵ is hydrogen, which comprises:

reacting a compound R⁶-A-X (II) or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)

where X is a halogen, such as Cl, Br or I, or a sulfonate, such as methanesulfonate, (4-methyl)benzenesulfonate or trifluoromethanesulfonate, and R⁶ and A are as hereinbefore defined, to produce a compound of formula (IB) in accordance with the present invention:

$$R^{1}O_{2}S$$
(IB)

and thereafter and if necessary,

interconverting said compound of formula (IB) into another compound of formula (I); and/or

deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (IB).

- 5 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.
 - 17. A compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for use in human or veterinary medicine.
- 18. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from a condition which is mediated by COX-2 which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.
- 19. A method of treating a human or animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10.
 - 20. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of a condition which is mediated by COX-2.
 - 21. The use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in any of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for the treatment of an inflammatory disorder.